

**REMARKS**

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been amended to better conform with USPTO practice and procedure.

**I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended claims 7 and 8 as indicated above. Applicant believes that the Amendments to the claims address the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 8. Consequently, Applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant notes that claims 7 and 8 have not been rejected in view of prior art. Since Applicant has addressed the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issues of claims 7 and 8, Applicant submits that claims 7 and 8 should now be deemed allowable.

**II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bakke (U.S. Patent No. 5,566,170).

Claim 1 recites:

"Method of processing IP packets **at layer three level in a telecommunication equipment**, the equipment comprising **a first box containing layer 4 protocols, and a second box containing hardware interfaces and layer 2 drivers**, the method comprising the following steps in the following order, **which are performed by a first termination block**:

in the incoming direction:

validating IP packets by performing checks,  
managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all other options ,  
filtering,  
deciding first next layer and forwarding;

in the outgoing direction:

managing redirect by checking if the packet that is going to be sent satisfies the following conditions:

the IP packet has been received from a same interface over which it is going out,

the source address belongs to a sub-network of a next-hop,

there is no source route option,

managing TTL by considering a valid packet any IP packet addressed to the equipment and with TTL equal to 0,

managing source address,

managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all other options,

fragmenting packets when the packet to be routed has a size greater than a Maximum Transmission Unit."

The Examiner asserts that Bakke anticipates the elements of claim 1. Applicant submits that Bakke does not teach or suggest a method of processing IP packets **at layer three level in a**

**telecommunication equipment, the equipment comprising a first box containing layer 4 protocols, and a second box containing hardware interfaces and layer 2 drivers, as claimed.**

Further, the Examiner cites col. 5, lines 62-67 for teaching the claimed options field management. The aspect of Bakke cited by the Examiner discloses different validation schemes including hop count, checksum, header version, etc. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of managing options field by interpreting all the options that said first termination block understands and preserving unaltered all other options, as claimed.

The Examiner asserts that col. 2, lines 12-18 of Bakke teaches the claimed redirect management. The aspect of Bakke cited by the Examiner discloses the generation of data packets by different types of devices. Further, Bakke discloses that data packets are concentrated into a forwarding device such as a local bridge or router and are then directed by destination over one or more media types which are connected to destination devices that could be other larger or smaller bridges or routers. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of redirect management, let alone, managing redirect by checking if the packet that is going to be sent satisfies the conditions that the IP packet has been received from a same interface over which it is going out, that the source address belongs to a sub-network of a next-hop, or that there is no source route option, as claimed.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

### III. Allowable Subject Matter

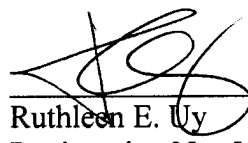
The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6, and 9-15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. At the present time, Applicant has not rewritten claims 4-6 and 9-15 in independent form since Applicant believes claims 4-6 and 9-15 will be deemed allowable, without amendment, by virtue of their dependency to claims 1 and 7 for at least the reasons set forth above.

### IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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